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## **A Decade (almost) of Brown bag Seminars**

*Anniversary Report on the 'Brown Bag' Seminar Series at Centre for Mobilities and Urban Studies (C-MUS) 2009-18*

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## ***A Decade (almost) of Brown Bag Seminars***

- Anniversary Report on the '*Brown Bag*' Seminar Series at Centre for Mobilities and Urban Studies (C-MUS) 2009-18

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## Foreword

This collection of BB Seminar Series abstracts and titles is a celebration of sorts. The Center for Mobilities and Urban Studies (C-MUS) was established at Aalborg University in 2008. The 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary conference to be held in August 2018 is a testament to this. It is not too much to say that during this decade C-MUS has grown to become an internationally well-recognized research center under the heading of the 'new Mobilities turn'. However, a research center also need a daily life of mundane (but important) practices. This collection of abstracts takes you through the BB programs since the very first in the spring of 2009. Along the road, the author of this small report has not only insisted on keeping the BB series alive as an important institution in C-MUS but also meticulously kept a historic record of all the seminars. This report argue that by 'looking back' to the rich and diverse series of BB presentations we get a sense of the academic debates and 'matters of concern' for the researchers in C-MUS. Moreover, this may also serve as an important pointer for the future. So next to presenting 'old stories' the report is an invitation to reflect upon the next decade of Brown Bag Seminars!

Happy Readings!

*Centre For Mobilities and Urban Studies (C-MUS), Aalborg, January 2018*



**2009**

**Spring**

### **March: Goffman and Everyday Life Mobility**

Speaker: Ole B. Jensen, Department of Architecture and Design, Aalborg University

Place and time: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 12.00 – 13.00 (Kroghstræde 5, Room 43/45)

Responsible: Antje Gimmler and Anette Jerup Jørgensen

### **May: PlaceMe**

Speaker: Paul B. McIlvenny, Department of Language & Culture, Aalborg University

Place and time: 29<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-13.00 (Gammel Torv 6, Room: Pejsestuen).

Responsible: Ole B. Jensen

**Autumn**

### **October: Actions of drivers – between legal norms and practice**

Speaker: Anette Jerup, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Organisation, Aalborg University

Place and time: 6<sup>th</sup> October from 12.00 – 13.00 (Fibigerstræde 13, Room will be announced)

Responsible: Tim Richardson and Claus Lassen

### **December: Mobilities and Gender**

Speaker: Helene Oldrup, Department of Sociology, Copenhagen University and Peter Næss, Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University.

Place and time: 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 13.00-15.00 (Kroghstræde 3, Room will be announced)

Responsible: Paul B. McIlvenny

**Autumn 2010/Spring 2011**

**Autumn 2010**

### **November 3: Citta Slow – a model for urban development?**

**Speaker:** Prof. Ole B. Jensen, Dept. of Architecture, Design and Media Technology ([obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** This presentation will present a critical discussion of 'Citta Slow' as urban development concept and try to relate to the underlying beliefs and values. The presentation also contains a brief discussion of Svendborg as the first and only Citta Slow in Denmark.

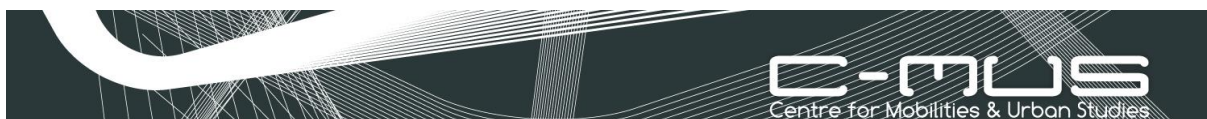
**Place and time:** November 3, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### **December 9: Doing family and food decisions on the move**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Malene Gram, Dept. of Culture and Global Studies ([gram@ihis.aau.dk](mailto:gram@ihis.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** This will be a presentation of the interaction, rules and roles of parents and children in their joint decision making during the grocery shopping trip. The presentation will be a critical discussion of the way adults tend to be presented as rational and children as irrational in decision making literature, and draws on ethnographic fieldwork from Denmark and the US

**Place and time:** December 9, 12:00-13:00, Fibigerstræde 2, room 35







## Spring 2011

### February 15: Double Mobility

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Antje Gimmler, Dept. of Sociology, Social Work and Organization ([gimmler@socsci.aau.dk](mailto:gimmler@socsci.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** Travelling today is characterized by an almost seamless flow of two different types of mobility: mobility of information with ICTs and mobility of human beings, goods and other artifacts in form of transport and travels. Urban infrastructure, buildings, planes etc. could be integrated with human interaction/communication in a hitherto unknown way. The papers seeks to outline the interplay of these two forms of mobility as on the one hand realized in certain infrastructures and mobility systems and on the other hand viewed from the perspective of the social agent with the help of ethnographic fieldwork about travelers at airports, train stations and local busses.

**Place and time:** February 15, 12:00-13:00, Kroghstræde 5, room 43/45

### March 18: How Many Mobile Cameras Does It Take to Capture a Family Bike Ride?

**Speaker:** Prof. Paul McIlvenny, Dept. of Culture and Global Studies ([paul@hum.aau.dk](mailto:paul@hum.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** This talk reports on a preliminary investigation of two types of bike-rider-passenger 'mobile with' configurations typical in urban settings of bike-friendly Denmark. First, the rider who rides with a child in their front loaded transport/carrier tricycle. Second, the rider who rides with a child while they ride their own bike. Issues and problems of data collection, transcription and analysis of mobile social interaction and learning on family bike rides will be presented for discussion.

**Place and time:** March 18, 12:00-13:00 (venue to be announced at <http://www.c-mus.aau.dk/>)

### April 7: Parkour – the art of movement and relating to the urban now

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Shelley Smith, Dept. of Architecture, Design and Media Technology ([ssmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:ssmi@create.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** Parkour is mostly known as a radical and dramatic form of physical expression. However parkour can also be seen as an expression of contemporary urban form and life and many of the phenomena that describe these. The presentation will introduce the lens of parkour, how urbanity can be seen through it and examine the potential for parkour as a tool for developing urban strategies and design.

**Place and time:** April 7, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### May 18: Aeromobility and social consequences: The case of Mexico City International Airport

**Speaker:** Daniel Galland, Dept. of Development and Planning ([dgalland@plan.aau.dk](mailto:dgalland@plan.aau.dk))

**Short abstract:** By exploring a series of social and environmental consequences associated with the highly controversial airport Mexico City International Airport, we show that increasing global air travel not only creates new opportunities for cosmopolitans to travel the world, but also results in a number of negative outcomes for the people living in the surroundings of the site.

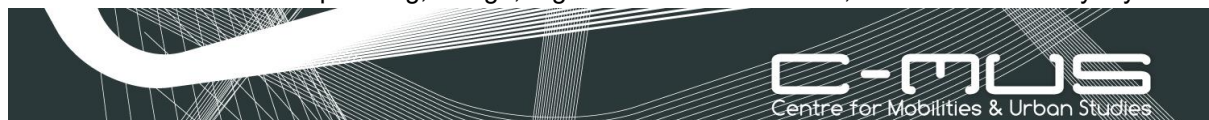
**Place and time:** May 18, 12:00-13:00, Fibigerstræde 11, room 1

## Autumn 2011

### August 29: Staging Mobilities – towards a mobile situationism

**Speaker:** Professor, Ole B. Jensen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, e-mail: [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This presentation is based on work-in-progress on establishing a theoretical framing of mobilities in the everyday life with a particular focus on the 'situation'. The pivotal thinker is Erving Goffman but the presentation moves on to include more contemporary mobilities theories in an attempt to frame a staging 'from above' in the form of planning, design, regulations and institutions, as well as the everyday life staging





‘from below’ made by consociates in interaction and individual performances of mobile self presentation. The presentation is based on chapter one in a forthcoming book by the presenter titled *‘Staging Mobilities’* (Routledge).

**Place and time:** August 29, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

## **September 8: “Gentlemen, we drive to do the tour” - the construction of the Danish automobile consumer culture**

**Speaker:** Associate professor, Michael F. Wagner, Institute for Cultural and Global Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark, e-mail [mfw@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:mfw@cgs.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The automobile has achieved a central position in modern everyday life as an essential artefact to mobility. This historical fact raises the question how automobiles have been mediated for mass consumption? The presentation will demonstrate the manner in which automobilism in Denmark was invented, constructed, represented, and appropriated as a leisure culture after 1900. This is basically the story of Sunday driving or the daytrip and autocamping during the holidays. The underlying assumption is that while commodities for mass consumption are produced during working hours, an opportunity to actually enjoy these products is restricted mainly to leisure consumption.

**Place and time:** September 8, 12:00-13:00, Room 37 Fib. 5 (to be confirmed)

## **October 20: Mapping Daily Mobility**

**Speaker:** PhD Student, Simon Wind, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, e-mail: [swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** How do we observe, capture and analyze the ephemeral details and complexity of everyday mobility? This presentation will present a PhD study with the main objective of capturing daily mobility of households in Copenhagen approaching how households are coping with their daily mobility and what rationales lies behind the household’s mobility choices. To do so the methodological research design consists of mainly qualitative and ethnographic methods but is also paired with the use of quantitative GPS tracking technology. This will be presented through the results of a pilot study. Focus of the discussion for the presentation will be mobile methodology, data collection and sampling.

**Place and time:** 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen at Gammel Torv 6

## **November 11: Models and Manipulation**

**Speakers:** Ph.D. student Jeppe Andersen and Professor Petter Næss, e-mail: [petter@plan.aau.dk](mailto:petter@plan.aau.dk)

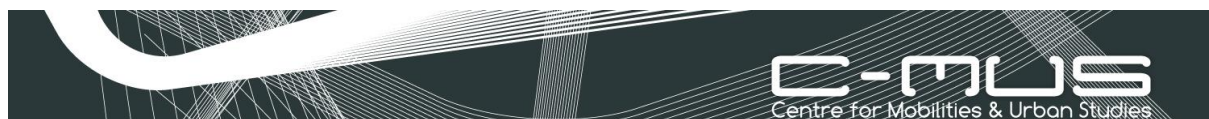
**Abstract:** Using the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed Third Limfjord Crossing in Aalborg, Denmark as an example, the presentation will discuss how transport models can be designed, consciously or unconsciously, to be imbued with a political program of discrimination, causing forecasting error in transport infrastructure planning. The presentation will be based on two previously published articles (in “Økonomi og Politik”, 2010 and “Transport Reviews”, 2011), supplemented with material from qualitative interviews and a questionnaire survey among transport model developers, forecasters, planners and decision-makers in the Scandinavian countries.

**Place and time:** November 11 from 12:00-13:00, Fibigerstræde 13, Room 57

## **December 5: Cycling Cultures in a Low-Cycling Country: new research from England**

**Speaker:** Rachel Aldred, University of East London Sustainable Mobilities Research Group, C-MUS Associate, e-mail: [r.e.aldred@uel.ac.uk](mailto:r.e.aldred@uel.ac.uk)

**Abstract:** While overall cycling levels in England are low, rates vary by locality and some cities and towns have cycle commuting rates of up to 25%. The two-year Cycling Cultures project ([www.cyclingcultures.org.uk/](http://www.cyclingcultures.org.uk/)) has investigated four diverse urban areas where cycling rates are relatively high, using a range of qualitative methods. This talk will reflect on cycling experiences in those four areas, and on possible futures for cycling in countries like England.





**Place and time:** December 5, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

## Spring 2012

### February 9: *'I like riding my bike. If it doesn't rain of course'*

**Speaker:** PhD Student, Laura Bang Lindegaard, Department of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University, [laura@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:laura@cgs.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The presentation reports on an ethnomethodologically informed study of the discursive accomplishment of everyday transportation practices in the face of climate change. Firstly, the presentation focuses on how different practices are conceptualized as related to the embodied practice of rain as it shows that whereas rain is treated as a potential element of the practice of walking in the forest, it is treated as an obstacle to cycling. Secondly, the presentation focuses more thoroughly on conceptualizations of cycling in rain by showing how rain is used in making socially legitimate meanings of everyday transportation practices.

**Place and time:** February 9, 12:00-13:00, Room 2.107 Kroghstræde 3 (to be confirmed)

### March 8: *Students of Mobility: Urban and Architectural interventions at Nørrebro Station*

**Speakers:** Urban Design Student Group (Helene Berthé, Laurent Dumas, Martin Frank Petersen, Senad Gvozden, Tinna Lykke Madsen), contact: Senad Gvozden ([sgvozdz08@student.aau.dk](mailto:sgvozdz08@student.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** In this presentation a group of urban design students are rethinking the traditional idea of the Metro by asking; how can we use the synergy between the generic infrastructural network and the idiosyncrasies of Nørrebro to create an urban area that will mark Nørrebro as a prominent node in the larger network? How can we create a neighborhood where people can meet and exchange materials, political, social, cultural and mobile goods, while ensuring efficient transport for the metro, s-train, bus and bike travelers?

**Place and time:** March 8, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen at Gammel Torv 6

### April 19: *The Programmable City*

**Speaker:** Professor, Ole B. Jensen, Dept. of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The presentation will introduce the newly formed research cluster for 'Mobility and Tracking Technologies' (MoTT) at the Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology. Under the MoTT cluster a research agenda for 'The Programmable City' is emerging. This research agenda is in short interested in how software systems merges with physical spaces of the city and thereby mediating, affording and facilitating as well as surveying, blocking and controlling urban mobility.

**Place and time:** April 19, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen at Gammel Torv 6

### May 10: *Making Sense of Urban Space*

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Peter Allingham, Department of Communication, AAU ([pal@hum.aau.dk](mailto:pal@hum.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** With the advent of experience economy it seems that urban space and place have become increasingly important parameters of strategic communication. From a communicational perspective this development has, among other things, made it necessary to find methods of analysis and understanding that include space, place and three-dimensional objects in communicational analysis systematically. In my presentation I shall focus on how a reconsideration of Roman Jakobson's revision of Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic modes may enable an approach that will give prominence to aesthetic, non-representational meaning and open for a possible application of cognitive semiotic models. Analytical examples will be referred to.

**Place and time:** May 10, 12:00-13:00, Room 2.107, Kroghstræde 3 (to be confirmed)

### May 14: *Road Signs: Geosemiotics and Human Mobility*







**Speaker:** PhD Student, Salmiah Abdul Hamid, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [saha@create.aau.dk](mailto:saha@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This presentation examines and explores the interconnection in the theoretical framework of travel flow in urban spaces which emphasize on how a person choreographs his/her movement according to signs in place. The most important aspect of theories will be based on geosemiotic theory and mobility theory. In order to get a better understanding of the theories, a pilot study on 'human interaction' towards the environment, "the road signs" *per se* will be conducted.

**Place and time:** May 14, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen at Gammel Torv 6

### June 6: *The History of Danish Airports*

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Claus Lassen, Dept. of Development and Planning, [claus@plan.aau.dk](mailto:claus@plan.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** International and domestic air traffic has increased dramatically after World War II. The airport is central to the creation of the global and national aeromobility system. This presentation is based on an ongoing research project that examines the historical background of the Danish airport system. In particular the presentation explores why some airports today are important hubs for national and global air travel while other airports have completely lost their societal function and meaning. It is argued that there is a need for greater priority for a social scientific understanding of how airports and aeromobility are created and developed compared to the theories of conventional traffic economy.

**Place and time:** June 6, 12:00-13:00, (room to be announced by the presenter)

## Autumn 2012

### September 11: *Rio on the Move – global events & urban infrastructure projects*

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Victor Andrade ([vsil@create.aau.dk](mailto:vsil@create.aau.dk)) and Professor Ole B. Jensen ([obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

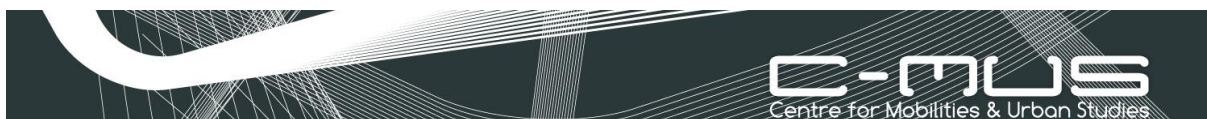
**Abstract:** In this presentation we introduce some very preliminary investigations as part of a new research project dealing with how the global city of Rio prepares itself for upcoming mega events such as the 2014 World Cup in Football and the 2016 Olympic Games. The socio-economical and infrastructural inequalities in Rio are well publicized facts and spatial segregation has been a defining factor in its urbanization. Rio strategic planning and urban design interventions show a pattern throughout history whereby infrastructure was provided in central areas whilst peripheries – inhabited by low-income groups – were relegated to a second plan, with precarious or no basic infrastructure. However, Rio's spatial configuration has been rapidly transformed in the last few years because of massive investments in mobility systems and urban design projects as preparation for the global events the city will host in the coming years. This scenario of rapid changes poses a critical question: what are the impacts of these interventions in the spatial segregation patterns of Rio de Janeiro? The presentation focus on infrastructure projects and mobility as this seems to be a less investigated and analyzed dimension of global city mega-event preparations. The presentation aims to present the mobility system and urban design solutions that are being implemented in Rio and to illustrate how these interventions both offer new opportunities for re-thinking and up-grading a city's circulation system, as well as they carry new configurations of power and social exclusion.

**Place and time:** September 11, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### September 18: *Analysis of household mobility in Copenhagen*

**Speaker:** PhD Student, Simon Wind, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This presentation outlines the tentative work of analyzing the everyday mobility of 11 households in Copenhagen. Point of departure is taken in empirical data from qualitative interviews conducted with the household members and how this can be related to a theoretical framework. The analysis seeks to uncover how the households are coping in their busy daily lives with mobility as one of the main ingredients. Finally (if time permits), a theoretical model and perspective for households with children will be briefly presented.







**Place and time:** September 18, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### **October 30: Mobility Planning and Tales of the Future**

**Speaker:** Post Doc, Morten Skou Nicolaisen, Department of Planning, Urban Planning & Management, [mortenn@plan.aau.dk](mailto:mortenn@plan.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** All aspects of planning depend on our ability to predict the likely consequences of interventions with some degree of certainty. However, prediction is often immensely complex in social systems, and as a result we reduce our concept of reality via the use of models, whether conceptual or mathematical. Most people acknowledge that models are only simplifications of reality used to assist decision-making, but more often than not the forecasts produced by these models are taken at face value rather than interpreted in this context. In this session I present examples of how the structure of contemporary models used in transport planning often overlook important but well known effects. When these results are used without critical reflection of how they have been produced, this causes decision makers to adopt ineffective mobility policies that sometimes counteract their own agendas.

**Place and time:** October 30, 12:00-13:00, Vestre Havnepromenade 9, 4<sup>th</sup> floor (panorama room at the fjord)

### **November 13: Making Sense of Urban Space**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Peter Allingham, Department of Communication, AAU, [pal@hum.aau.dk](mailto:pal@hum.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** With the advent of experience economy it seems that urban space and place have become increasingly important parameters of strategic communication. From a communicational perspective this development has, among other things, made it necessary to find methods of analysis and understanding that include space, place and three-dimensional objects in communicational analysis systematically. In my presentation I shall focus on how a reconsideration of Roman Jakobson's revision of Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic modes may enable an approach that will give prominence to aesthetic, non-representational meaning and open for a possible application of cognitive semiotic models. Analytical examples will be referred to.

**Place and time:** November 13, 12:00-13:00, Skibbrogade 5, room B1-18

### **December 6: A Child's Sense of Snow: Learning Cross-Country Skiing**

**Speaker:** Prof. Paul McIlvenny, Centre for Discourses in Transition (C-DiT), Department of Culture and Global Studies, [paul@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:paul@cgs.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This talk looks at the ways in which children learn to move through a novel environment, namely in recreational cross-country skiing. More specifically, the focus is on investigating and comparing how a child learns to ski at a specific site within the context of familial social interaction. A mobile video ethnography was undertaken and audiovisual recordings were made of family skiing, in which among other things a caregiver instructs and guides a novice child to ski. Using a mobile interaction studies approach, the analysis examines how snow - a complex materiality that can afford spatial movement - is sensed, felt and made salient in spatio-interactional practices.

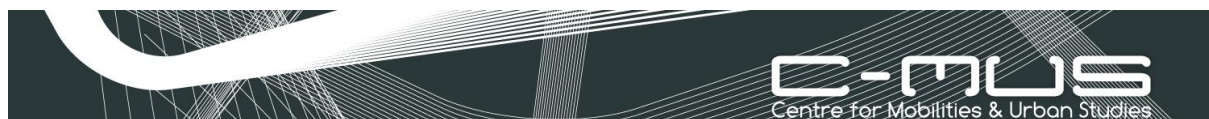
**Place and time:** December 6, 12:00-13:00, room 2.107 in Kroghstræde 3 (HUMFAK building on campus)

## **Spring 2013**

### **February 13: Impact Appraisal of Transport Projects**

**Speaker:** Post Doc, Morten Skou Nicolaisen, Department of Planning, Urban Planning & Mobility, [mortenn@plan.aau.dk](mailto:mortenn@plan.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Impact appraisals for transport infrastructure projects are greatly dependent on forecasts of travel demand and construction costs. These forecasts are used to evaluate many of the likely social, economic and environmental consequences of new policy initiatives. In this context, the accuracy of demand and cost forecasts becomes crucial to the validity and reliability of decision support prepared for policy makers. This seminar is aimed at presenting the result from a recently completed dissertation, which, inter alia, compared





the expected development in the forecasts with the actual development observed after project implementation. The focus of the present seminar is to discuss the limitations of the current appraisal system in addressing planning challenges from a mobility perspective.

**Place and time:** February 13, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### **March 14: *Designing Mobilities – towards a new mobility research field?***

**Speaker:** Professor Ole B. Jensen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This presentation is concerned with articulating a new perspective on mobilities research that put explicit focus on the material design of mobile technologies, infrastructural sites of mobilities and other dimensions of the built environment hosting mobile practices. The presenter argues on the basis of two book soon to be published (*Staging Mobilities*, Routledge 2013 and *Designing Mobilities*, Aalborg University Press 2013) that a new interdisciplinary research field within mobilities research is emerging. This is a field that calls for new collaborations and perspectives, and the presentation is a first attempt to articulate such a call.

**Place and time:** March 14, 2013, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### **April 23: *Urban Bikescapes in New York***

**Speaker:** Professor Gitte Marling, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [marling@create.aau.dk](mailto:marling@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The presentation 'Urban Bikescapes in New York' discusses new mobility environments where architecture & urban spaces create new meaning / identity, aesthetics and experiences

**Place and Time:** April 23, 2013, 12:00-13:00, Room Ø-215, Østerågade 6

### **May 8: *Mobilities and Places: A Ferry is coming to Town!***

**Speaker:** Research Assistant, Jacob Bjerre Mikkelsen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [jbmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:jbmi@create.aau.dk)

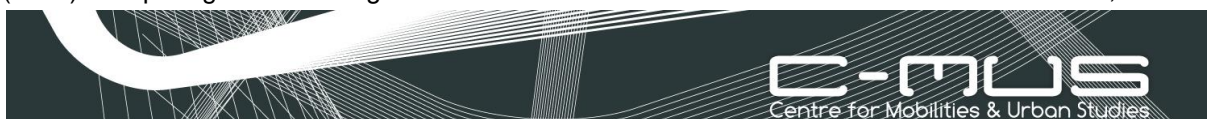
**Abstract:** This talk will explore the relationship between mobilities and places, especially the role of transport modes in place-making. Unfolding an upcoming project revolving around an old ferry from the 'Limfjord', the talk will discuss how the ferries in the fjord are inhabited and performed, questioning if these structures can be perceived as mobile places? And how do they affect the places and communities they connect? At last, we will discuss if these structures could be used as catalysts for place-making elsewhere in the region, exploring potentials for using the ferry as a plug-in through urban experiments in scale 1:1.

**Place and time:** May 8, 2013, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammeltorv 6

### **June 5: *Non-representations, More-than-representation, any-representations of train travel experiences?***

**Speaker:** PhD Stipend, Martin Trandberg Jensen, Department of Culture and Global Studies ([trandberg@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:trandberg@cgs.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** This presentation deals with modes of scientific representation and the conventions and institutional politics at play. With a broadest of brushstrokes the presentation will argue that much tourist research dealing with the genealogy of experiences-in-the-making has been overly confined by grand theories deriving especially from psychology, consumer theory and driven by marketing. By doing so, (re)presentations have left untouched the inherent sensual and bodily dimensions of mobile experiences in favor of Durkheimian approaches dealing with structural orders or symbolic agendas. This presentation will do a reading of especially Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology (fuelling it with tenets from contemporary writings on non-representational theory) to nuance the subject/object divide in much research, and by doing so, trying to bring back the corporeality and pre-cognitive triggers into tourism studies. More precisely, it seeks to ventilate a field which has too often reduced such mobile phenomenon to matters of rational actors in calculative transport systems (Watts & Lyons, 2010) by using recent empirical examples deriving from a pilot study on 'international train travelling'. **Recommended readings:** Lyons, G., Jain, J., Susilo, Y., Atkins, S. (2010) Comparing Rail Passengers' Travel Time Use in Great Britain Between 2004 and 2010, *Mobilities*,





pp. 1-20 and Watts, L. (2008) The art and craft of train travel, *Social and Cultural Geography*, Vol. 9, No. 6, pp. 711-726

**Place and time:** June 5, 2013, 12:00-13:00, Room Ø-215, Østerågade 6

## Autumn 2013

### August 21: Short-term academic travel and career advancement – the case of Ghent University, Belgium

**Speaker:** PhD student Tom Storme, Department of Geography, Ghent University, Belgium, [tom.storme@ugent.be](mailto:tom.storme@ugent.be)

**Abstract:** Regular short-term work-related travel has increasingly become a reality for a growing number of workers. This appears to be especially the case in globally operating, knowledge-intensive sectors. Consequently, young and ambitious knowledge workers are increasingly expected and inclined to ensure a certain individual “capacity to move”, which implies job engagement and flexibility and can simultaneously disrupt family plans and ties. This presentation will focus on the importance of short-term travel in relation to career advancement in academia. Drawing on a dataset of travel applications of academics at Ghent University (Belgium), it will moreover feed the debate about (gender) inequality and mobility.

**Place and time:** August 21, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### September 30: Mobilities Design – towards a new ‘material turn’

**Speaker:** Professor, Ole B. Jensen ([obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

**Abstract:**

The last decade of research into everyday life mobility has let me to articulate a research focus on the ‘mobile situations’ and how these are ‘staged’ in complex processes of infrastructural system-logics as well as in myriads of individual and incremental decisions (see ‘*Staging mobilities*’, Routledge, 2013 and the forthcoming book ‘*Designing Mobilities*’). This is a research that asks the pragmatic question: *What makes a given mobile situation possible?* From the point of view of what I call ‘critical mobilities thinking’ I propose that mobilities research needs both to be ‘critical’ in relation to identifying ‘problems’ as well as ‘potentials’. Most social research on mobilities is good at the former, but less developed in relation to the latter. Therefore I have engaged with urban design, architecture and other design disciplines to explore their ‘potential seeking’ capabilities. Based on this the ‘staging mobilities’ opens up to a more design-oriented and material perspective on mobilities. Therefore I claim in this talk that we need a new ‘material turn’ in mobility research. It is a turn that orients itself towards design, space, and ‘materialities of mobilities’ much more than earlier research have done. In order to do so I propose the articulation of the new emerging research field of ‘mobilities design’ as an attempt to meet some of these challenges facing future mobility.

**Place and time:** September 30, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

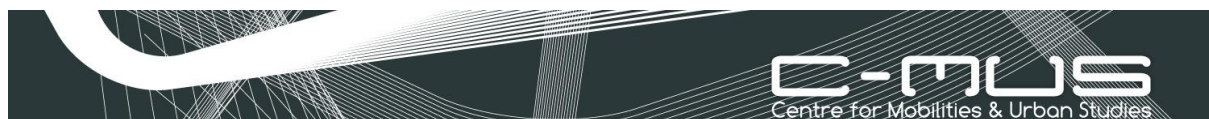
### October 24: Gesturing mobilities - the design of loose spaces

**Speaker:** PhD. student Ditte Bendix Lanng, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [dbla@create.aau.dk](mailto:dbla@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Transit spaces gesture our everyday life mobilities: an ordinary pedestrian tunnel might encourage us to rush through it, or it might invite us to linger there in conversation. This seminar will address how we can think of the ways in which transit space design suggests certain moments of mundane practices and experiences. Drawing on empirical studies the outset is that even a mundane tunnel space cannot be grasped as only a stable artefact with one or more specific uses inscribed within it. Rather it comes alive as a relational and heterogeneous actor - a loose space, when it is bodily and multi-sensorially activated.

**Place and time:** October 24, 12:00-13:00, Place TBA

### November 20: Three *Performativities* of Innovation in Public Transport Planning







**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Enza Lissandrello Department of Development and Planning AAU, [enza@plan.aau.dk](mailto:enza@plan.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Since American pragmatism, communicative, argumentative and interpretive turns we learned that planning is performed through stories, discourses and dramaturgical actions and individual professional planners' performances. We learned about individual planner stories as process managers, story-tellers and planner-authors and the many shadows in which the planner's work is positioned. However in the last two decades much more attention has been reserved to such plurality of stories, actors and governance dynamics which intervene and construct planning practice. In this presentation, the author returns to an analytic centred on the individual planning practitioner. Inspired by Judith Butler work, and utilizing a method based on 'conversational interviews' as by John Forrester self-portraits of planners, this research argues that planning is performative. The author explores *with* three diverse professional public planners' their own performativities of 'innovation' in public transportation planning in three Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden). The research analyses the set of repeated acts, which these individual professional planners perform, within their own three planning processes. Through these voiced reflections, this presentation concludes that, understanding planning as performative, can offer useful insights in the continuous search for doing, learning, engaging and educating future professional planners.

**Place and time:** November 20, 12:00-13:00, Room: Skb2 A1-9, Building: Skibbrogade 3

## December 10: Immobility – the bankruptcy of The Motor City

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Shelley Smith ([ssmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:ssmi@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

**Abstract:** From once being a symbol of upward mobility and manufacturing movement, Detroit has become the example par excellence of urban decay -and its momentum has now ground to a final and resounding halt. In July 2013 the City of Detroit filed for bankruptcy. The downfall of Detroit has been long underway, but the extent of the city's decline and the depth of its fall were not to be foreseen. This talk will take a look at how a focus on the car industry brought wealth that was mentally and physically manifested in the city – often translating to a cultural plus - and how the downward spiral has impacted the physical, cultural and everyday frameworks of the city. This talk will explore several themes and examine specific Detroit narratives within these themes as an essayistic collection. This is a work in progress. The Infrastructure of a Bankrupt City contains the following themes; the flow of decay - the city seen in motion as a matter of safety, urban infrastructures as the background for rural inclusions – urban farming as a means of survival, the reintroduction of clear borders – lines that define social divisions, urban decay and the everyday, are there grocery stores in Detroit? Urban decay and the decline of culture, Eminem was here – theater turned parking lot, cultural sellout - making ends meet

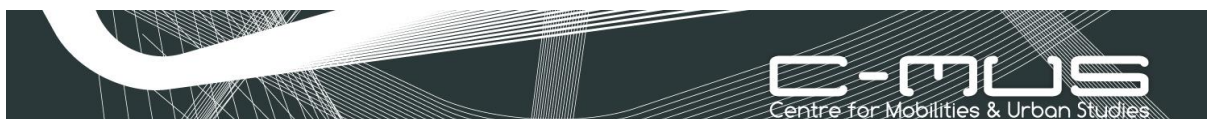
**Place and time:** December 10, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv 6

## Spring 2014

### February 24: Linear Mobilities – Aalborg's Bicycle Commuter Route 100

**Speakers:** Catherine Silva, Department of Urban Design and Planning and the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle ([cmcs@create.aau.dk](mailto:cmcs@create.aau.dk)) and Franziska Tennhardt, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Technical University of Dresden ([F.Tennhardt@gmx.de](mailto:F.Tennhardt@gmx.de))

**Abstract:** Over the past several years, a new breed of bicycle projects has been introduced in throughout Denmark. These projects are sometimes called "super bicycle highways", "bicycle super highways", or "bicycle commuter routes" depending on the context and locality. Regardless of the nomenclature, such projects share general characteristics and aim to encourage bicycle commute trips through the provision of improved connections from point A to B. Yet, despite common intensions and vocabulary, the implementation of infrastructure or facilities as well as the experiences or expectations of cyclists using the routes can be quite varied. One such route completed in Aalborg Municipality connects the City Centre to the main campus of Aalborg University. Presently, this route is the focus of a research project that aims to







understand and describe (a) what Route 100 is, (b) what it affords and prevents to the local environment, and (c) how it is best defined within the context other like bicycle projects.

**Place and time:** February 24, 12:00-13:00, Havestuen, Gammel Torv 6

### **March 27: Attention switches in real-world urban environment: Engaging with the city perceptually**

**Speakers:** Nikita A. Kharlamov, Assistant Professor, Niels Bohr Centre for Cultural Psychology, [nikita@hum.aau.dk](mailto:nikita@hum.aau.dk) Aleksandra Kaszowska, Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Niels Bohr Centre for Cultural Psychology, [kaszowska.a@gmail.com](mailto:kaszowska.a@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** It is well known in psychology that salient, memorable places serve as landmarks in wayfinding and formation of spatial knowledge. However, their aesthetic role as attention attractors and their meaningful texturing is underexplored. We would like to discuss some of our methodological ideas on how to track the relationship between place, attention, and meaning. In particular, we will briefly describe our past projects involving mobile methods (go-along-talk-aloud protocol), and the challenges we ran into, and we would appreciate feedback on how the psychological ideas of 'salient place' and 'attention switch' could be integrated with planning and design practices.

**Place and time:** March 27, 12:00-13:00, Pejsestuen, Gammel Torv

### **April 23: Transformation as a Mobile Gesture through Time**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Shelley Smith ([ssmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:ssmi@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

**Abstract:** 'The site' is the setting for analysis, design strategies and for aesthetic experience. Site methodologies are an integral part of research and development, tools in which analysis and design inform each other and unfold in a context that today is characterized by time playing as much a role as space, by movement, change, and by place not necessarily staying in place. Considering sites as dynamic and time-affected spatialities in a contemporary context becomes a paradox - and is challenged - when dealing with the transformation of obsolete post-industrial sites. This talk will explore the role of temporality – and in particular contemporaneity - in transformation and consider how time can be a mobile gesture that taps into and/or highlights aesthetic experience.

NOTE: This talk takes its point of departure in the work in progress related to the Transforming Site Methodologies seminar held in Sept 2013 and the upcoming special issue of Nordic Journal of Architectural Research of the same title.

**Place and time:** April 23, 12:00-13:00, Østerågade 6, room 220

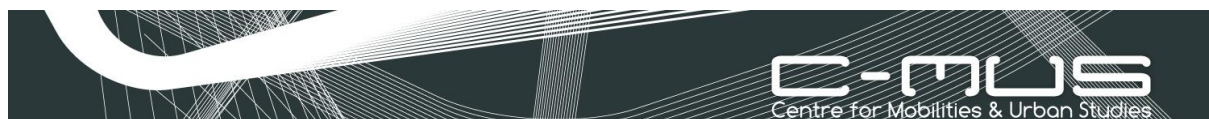
### **May 5: A genealogy of induced traffic and Danish transport project evaluation practice**

**Speaker:** PhD, Jeppe Astrup Andersen, Department of Planning, [jeppe@plan.aau.dk](mailto:jeppe@plan.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The issue of induced traffic has often been neglected within contemporary Danish transport project evaluation practice. Even though this generates biased assessments of environmental and health impacts, this simplification is, somehow, accepted by several key stakeholders within the transport sector, who among others perceive neglect as a taken-for-granted practice. In this presentation, the concept of induced traffic is rolled back throughout the history of Danish transport project evaluation practice and is elaborated in regard to the period 1830s-1970s. History is used to problematize the contemporary practice and it is shown that there is nothing natural about neglecting induced traffic from transport project evaluation. It is also shown that historically, induced traffic was given meaning within other interpretation frames than those dominating contemporary and that it signified a positive phenomenon in regard to evaluations of transport projects.

**Place and time:** May 5, 12:00-13:00, Skibbrogade 3, A1-9, 1st floor

**Speaker:** PhD, Jeppe Astrup Andersen, Department of Planning, [jeppe@plan.aau.dk](mailto:jeppe@plan.aau.dk)





## **May 27: Mobilities Futures and the City (MFC). Towards a reflexive methodology for urban planning in the mobile risk society**

**Speaker:** Professor Sven Kesselring ([sven@plan.aau.dk](mailto:sven@plan.aau.dk)), Department of Planning and Development, AAU

**Abstract:** MFC is a research project on how it is possible to integrate different disciplines and rationalities about the future of urban mobility and how to allocate appropriate expertise from social science, planning, engineering and the arts. The main goal of MFC is to explore the potentials of a post-disciplinary setting of expertise for the development of strong common visions, ideas and concepts for desirable urban mobilities futures. MFC generates answers on: *How can urban cultures, arts and social science contribute to new sustainable mobility practices and mobility systems on the urban scale?*

**Place and time:** May 27, 12:00-13:00, Skibbrogade 3, A1-9

## **June 6: Mobilities History – what is it, and what could it be?**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Claus Lassen ([claus@create.aau.dk](mailto:claus@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

**Abstract:** This presentation is an open invitation to discuss how a scoped and focused theme of historic research within mobilities may be framed. The presentation is connected to the establishment of a new sub-field within C-MUS and all are invited to join the discussion of how to create a C-MUS sub-group around the theme of 'Mobilities History'. The presentation exemplifies and frames the discussion by referencing the speaker's research into airport histories.

**Place and time:** June 6, 12:00-13:00, (venue to be announced)

## **Autumn 2014**

## **September 25: Blue sky matter: toward an (in-flight) understanding of the sensuousness of mobilities design**

**Speaker:** Professor Ole B. Jensen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk) (the presentation is based on a paper written with Professor Phillip Vannini and submitted to the special issue of Australian Geographer on *Sensuous Mobilities*)

**Abstract:** In this paper we present a theoretical framework for an understanding of the relationship between the material design of mobilities technologies and the multi-sensorial human body. Situating our work within the emerging field of 'mobilities design' within the broader so-called 'mobilities turn', we focus on two very different aircraft types and their design (the large passenger jet Boeing 737 and the small propeller aircraft DHC-2) in order to explore the sensuousness of in-flight experience and atmosphere. We focus on the interior design of the aircrafts, as well as on their technical capacities, and end with a conclusion that offers a flat ontological view of mobilities design. We argue that according the material design of mobilities technologies much be inscribed on equal terms with the sensing human subject if we are to claim that we have reached a better understanding of how mobility feels.

**Place and time:** September 25, 12:00-13:00, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.315 (second floor)

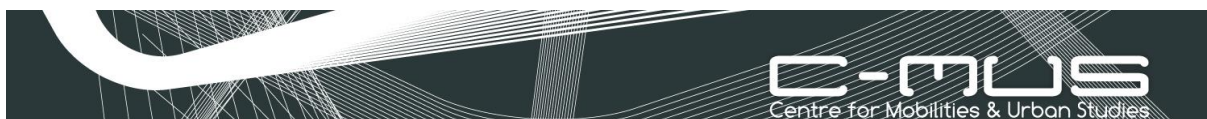
## **October 28: Mobilities Futures and the City (MFC). Towards a reflexive methodology for urban planning in the mobile risk society**

**Speaker:** Professor Sven Kesselring ([sven@plan.aau.dk](mailto:sven@plan.aau.dk)), Department of Planning and Development, AAU

**Abstract:** MFC is a research project on how it is possible to integrate different disciplines and rationalities about the future of urban mobility and how to allocate appropriate expertise from social science, planning, engineering and the arts. The main goal of MFC is to explore the potentials of a post-disciplinary setting of expertise for the development of strong common visions, ideas and concepts for desirable urban mobilities futures. MFC generates answers on: *How can urban cultures, arts and social science contribute to new sustainable mobility practices and mobility systems on the urban scale?*

**Place and time:**

October 28, 12:00-13:00, Room A1-9, AAU, Skibbrogade 5, B1-18, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 9000 Aalborg





### November 13: Mobilities History – what is it, and what could it be?

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Claus Lassen ([claus@create.aau.dk](mailto:claus@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, AAU

**Abstract:** This presentation is an open invitation to discuss how a scoped and focused theme of historic research within mobilities may be framed. The presentation is connected to the establishment of a new sub-field within C-MUS and all are invited to join the discussion of how to create a C-MUS sub-group around the theme of 'Mobilities History'. The presentation exemplifies and frames the discussion by referencing the speaker's research into airport histories.

**Place and time:** November 13, 12:00-13:00, (venue to be announced)

### December 3: Northern Jutland as International Flight Destination

**Speaker:** Post Doc Gunvor Larsen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [grla@create.aau.dk](mailto:grla@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** More and more international guests travel to Aalborg and Northern Jutland through Aalborg Airport, but little is known about these travelers. This research explores who they are, why they choose to visit the region, and their reasons choosing to travel here by air. Travel data and information has been gathered in Aalborg Airport, through a tracking app installed on the travelers' smartphones and through post-journey interviews. Based on this data, the research identifies the travelers' routes through the region and their travel rationales, all of which is used to create a typology of arch-typical international travelers arriving to Aalborg and Northern Jutland through Aalborg Airport.

**Place and time:** December 3, 12:00-13:00, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531 (4<sup>th</sup> floor, east side)

## Spring 2015

### February 18: Exploring Mental Mobilities in Hjørring Kommune – a brainstorm

**Speaker:** Gunvor Larsen, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, [grla@create.aau.dk](mailto:grla@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Over the next year Hjørring Kommune will be exploring their mobilities potentials, and how mobilities can become a driver in the municipality's efforts to embrace the challenges they face in terms of changing demographics and a movement of people from the countryside to the towns and cities. Part of the mapping of mobilities potentials is an investigation of the 'mental mobility' of the citizens of Hjørring Kommune: how does their thinking about and experience of mobility influence the mobility potential of Hjørring Kommune. This talk will be a discussion on how such an investigation can be approached theoretically and methodologically

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 5.346, 12:00-13:00

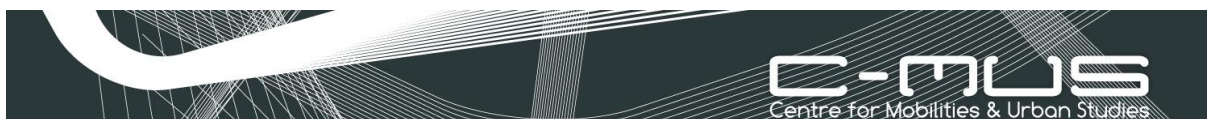
### March 12: Mapping the Genealogies of Mobilities Research

**Speakers:** Research Assistant, Simon Wind, [swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk) and Professor Ole B. Jensen, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk), both Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology

**Abstract:** In this brown bag we wish to invite to a genuine blackboard mapping exercise! With point of departure in the mobilities turn we seek to explore and elucidate, by drawing on the blackboard, the entangled network of academic scholars and theoretical currents running both backwards to classics and academic lighthouses of old as well as sideways to contemporary scholars, theoretical positions and schools within the social sciences. The aim of the brown bag is therefore to produce a collective mapping of the theoretical landscape of mobilities research and the scholars that inhabit it (and other related positions such as nonrepresentational theories, practice theory, STS and ANT).

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531, 12:00-14:00 (please note extended duration!)

### April 23: Time use in semi-autonomous vehicles – trust and the complex shifts in activities







**Speaker:** Associate Professor Thomas Bjørner, Dept. of Architecture and Media Technology, [tbi@create.aau.dk](mailto:tbi@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:**

The act of car driving is not just about getting from point A to point B, as it also contains very complex conceptualized issues full of meaning. This is not new knowledge, but both travel time and the conceptualization might change and be understood in new ways with the emergence of autonomous vehicles. The idea behind this project is to explore "how travel time is used and how drivers conceptualize time in autonomous vehicles." There are already studies focusing on technology acceptance toward autonomous vehicles and some of the perceived disadvantages and user perspectives regarding the "loss of control" in autonomous vehicles. But there are still some unknown factors regarding time use when the driver can take his or her hands off the steering wheel. How will the driver spend his or her time? To which degree will the driver still survey the drive? What kinds of shifts in activities will the driver take?

**Place and time:** Room TBA, 12:00-13:00

### May 19: Copenhagen Airport as an International Hub

**Speaker:** Business PhD Student Jens Bloch, Dept. of Architecture and Media Technology

**Abstract:** This presentation will report on a new Business PhD project concerning Copenhagen Airport as an international hub. The project is started by February 1 2015 so the presentation will cover the initial thoughts and ideas for research design and be welcoming proposals and comments for the research design.

**Place and time:** Room TBA, 12:00-13:00

### June 16: Master's Thesis Liveable Auckland – Transforming Urban Spaces

**Speaker:** Students of Urban Design; June Gina Heiselberg, Michael Vestergaard Thomsen & Rikke Guldhammer Mogensen, AD:MT, AAU, [mvth10@student.aau.dk](mailto:mvth10@student.aau.dk) , [michael@liveableauckland.dk](mailto:michael@liveableauckland.dk)

**Abstract:** Auckland City, New Zealand, have an ambitious goal for the city: "Auckland as the world's most liveable city in 2040". The talk will departure from the start of our journey, a journey investigating the application of Liveability in Urban Design. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and user involvement the extended digital toolbox, a new methodology of measuring and designing better cities has in spring 2015 been carried out for Auckland City Council. The talk will invite for discussion of Liveability and the role of the urban designer.

**Place and time:** Room TBA, 12:00-13:00

## Autumn 2015

### September 10: Slow Roll– biking as an urban and social connector

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Shelley Smith ([ssmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:ssmi@create.aau.dk)), Department of Architecture and Media Technology.

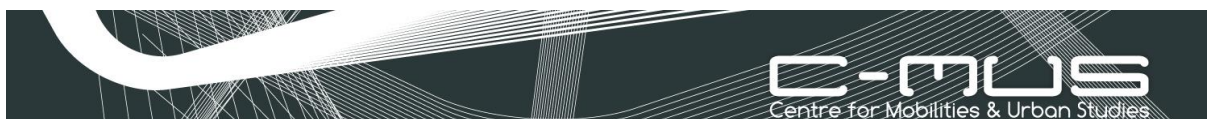
**Abstract:** Every Monday night, a diverse group of people assemble for a 10 km. bike tour through the streets of Detroit. Every Monday over 3,000 people move through desolation and ruin gaining insights into parts of the city that would otherwise be deemed too dangerous. Every Monday night a huge swathe of movement populates the emptiness and stitches the city together. In a poor and dispersed city, biking brings thousands together and positively showcases the city – activating the sensorial and the social. This talk is about the Slow Roll initiative in Detroit and how it provides new views and new connections.

**Place and time:** September 10, Rendsburggade room 4.315, 12:00-13:00

### October 7: Eye-tracking and urban design

**Speakers:** Assistant Professor, Simon Wind ([swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk)) and PhD Candidate Jacob Bjerre Mikkelsen ([jbmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:jbmi@create.aau.dk)), both Department of Architecture and Media Technology.

**Abstract:** Currently tracking technologies (GPS, thermal cameras, drones, etc.) are becoming cheaper, easier to use and therefore more available to researchers. This opens new methodological opportunities for







empirical studies. For instance, eye-tracking is used in consumer studies as a tool for understanding how consumers engage in shopping at an unprecedented level of detail. Similarly, we see potential in applying eye-tracking technology to gain a better understanding of how people experience, perceive and use urban and architectural spaces. The usage of eye-tracking can be seen as part of trend in research moving towards investigating the interface between the body and the physical environment at a biological and neurological level. In this brown bag we report on our recent methodological explorations (and failures) of using eye-tracking technology in relation to studies in urban design.

**Place and time:** October 7, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.351, 12:00-13:00

### **November 26: Vibrant relational materialism**

**Speaker:** Ph.D. Martin Trandberg Jensen ([trandberg@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:trandberg@cgs.aau.dk)), Department of Culture and Global Studies, Tourism Research Unit, AAU, Copenhagen.

**Abstract:** Cup-boards, passports, airplanes, (smart)phones, t-shirts and postcards. Indeed a gushing wave of things has informed the canon of tourism and mobilities research recently. The main purpose of this presentation is to extend this relational-materialist thinking by coining the term 'vibrant relational materialism'. We suggest that current material studies can be enriched by following in the footsteps of critical animists such as Bennett (2010), Vannini (2014) and Ingold (2007) in order to broaden the traditional understanding of objects and to more considerably enliven and sensitise the temporal, the transformative and the affective implications and relations between materialities and humans.

**Place and time:** November 26, location tba, 12:00-13:00

### **December 10: Can the design of spaces modulate our ability to form new memories?**

**Speakers:** Assistant professor Lars Brorson Fich ([lbfi@create.aau.dk](mailto:lbfi@create.aau.dk)) and Associate professor Martin Kraus ([martin@create.aau.dk](mailto:martin@create.aau.dk)), both Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology.

**Abstract:** In this brown bag seminar we wish to present and discuss our research concerning whether the design of spaces and spatial elements such as landmarks modulates our ability to form new memories. Our research takes the extensive research within neuroscience into human memory- and navigational systems as a part of departure, especially the brain structure called the hippocampus. The hippocampus combines the formation of new memories and the creation of the cognitive map that underlines spatial navigation. This cognitive map is created on the basis of landmarks and the geometry of the environment. These two functions, navigation and the formation of memories, are combined so that the underlying code of memories is the place, defined by these specific spatial features. We then speculate that the more or less apparently present these features are, and thereby the more or less easy it is for the hippocampus to define the place, the more or less easy it might be for it to form new memories. If so, e.g. urban space with its monuments, billboards and more or less distinct geometry might be read as a modulation of memory.

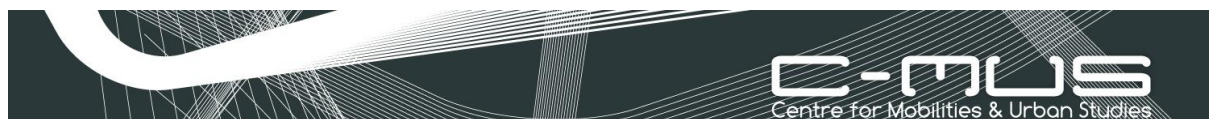
**Place and time:** December 10, location tba, 12:00-13:00

## **Spring 2016**

### **February 18: Hjørring Kommune – Development Strategy 2015**

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor Gunvor Riber Larsen, Department of Architecture & Media Technology ([grrla@create.aau.dk](mailto:grrla@create.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** Hjørring Municipal Council has adopted a new approach to the municipal policy for development: instead of stretching resources across the whole municipality, an explicit prioritisation of places to develop is made, while other places are respectfully left on their own. This approach is written into the politically adopted Development Strategy 2015, and represents a break with previous development strategies in Hjørring Municipality. In October Hjørring Kommune won Byplanprisen for this strategy. This talk will present the main ideas and visions in that strategy, and discuss the political context that made it possible for the strategy to be adopted by the municipal council.





**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.315, February 18, 12:00-13:00

### **March 11: *Dark Design* – mobilities and exclusion by design**

**Speaker:** Professor Ole B. Jensen, Dept. of Architecture & Media Technology ([obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** Any design idea or intervention in the world is based on an underpinning logic or a set of normative principles and values. At times such will be very explicit, at other times they will be unspoken and tacit. In this paper the underpinning values leading to power exercise, social exclusion, and differentiated mobilities will be explored. The paper takes point of departure in the so-called 'mobilities turn' in general, and the strand of 'critical mobilities thinking' that investigates the mundane everyday life situations. The framework of 'Staging Mobilities' is at the base, but the paper extends the theoretical framing into thinking about design codes, codes of conducts, city plans, technologies, artefacts, objects, and new ways of including materialities into the mobilities analysis. Empirically the paper breaches from the author's own research into sky trains, metros, drones, and street design over secondary research into the social exclusion taking place by the design of infrastructure spaces and application of technologies. The paper re-works how inequalities are 'staged' through overt and covert design ideas and interventions shaping and re-shaping the social geography of a world increasingly marked by the rights, abilities, and opportunities to move freely – or not!

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.315, March 11, 12:00-13:00

### **April 5: Inclusion of social interaction as a benefit in transport appraisal**

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor, Morten Skou Nicolaisen, Department of Planning, ([mortenn@plan.aau.dk](mailto:mortenn@plan.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** Conventional appraisal in the transport sector is centred on the minimisation of travel speed to facilitate flows in an effort to maximise economic efficiency. Increasingly, environmental aspects are being included as deliberate policy objectives and included in project appraisal. However, social impacts and in particular the socialisation aspects of human interaction is entirely absent in transport planning despite its strong status in related fields. The purpose of this presentation is to outline the challenges and possibilities of establishing a relevant body of knowledge and a set of tools on the social interaction of different mobilities that enable the inclusion of such aspects in appraisal of new plans and projects.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.315, April 5, 12:00-13:00

### **May 12: User Acceptance and Perceived Driving Pleasure in Autonomous Vehicles**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor, Thomas Bjørner, Department of Architecture & Media Technology ([tbj@create.aau.dk](mailto:tbj@create.aau.dk))

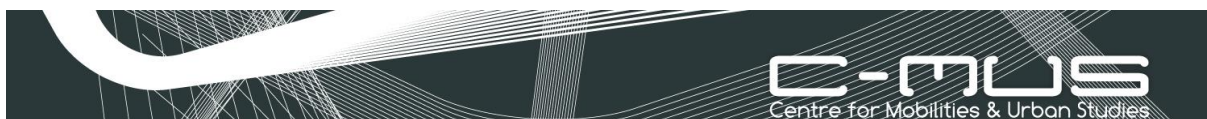
**Abstract:** The aim of this presentation is from a sociological user perspective to explore user acceptance and the perceived driving pleasure in semi-autonomous and autonomous vehicles. The knowledge about autonomous driving in a real-life context is very limited due to the fact that it is still in its early stages - but with lots of various predictions. The presentation will focus on theoretical issues within autonomous driving, as well as existing findings. This also includes my own pilot study, based on in-depth interviews while having participants watching video examples within four different autonomous driving scenarios. In general there are positive attitudes regarding semi-autonomous driving systems, especially the use of a parking assistant and acc with stop-and-go while driving in city traffic congestion. However, there were also some concerns about trust, user interactions and legislation, as well as the use of technology when driving on highways. And what about the driving pleasure – is that still an issue within autonomous driving?

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531, May 12, 12:00-13:00

### **June 10: Smart Cities and Responsive Urban Environments**

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor, Simon Wind, Architecture & Media Technology, [swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** As an ambiguous umbrella term Smart City deals with finding solutions for the grand challenges, such as sustainability, climate change, resource scarcity, energy security, inequality, civic involvement and participation etc. in an increasingly urbanised world. Politicians, government officials, policy makers, technologists and international corporations as well as citizens, NGOs and entrepreneurs, have primarily





advanced the notion of Smart City. However, to a less degree Smart City has been on the agenda for professionals involved in the city making such as urban designers, architects, artists and planners. This Brownbag presents work on what is termed *responsive urban environments* that combines new (smart city) technologies, temporality and urban design in searching of new ways and venues of urban place making, identity formation and participation.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531, June 10, 12:00-13:00

## Autumn 2016

### September 29: Intensive mobilities: the experiential politics of long-distance workers

**Speaker:** Professor, Ole B. Jensen, AD:MT, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This presentation is based on a paper co-authored by Phillip Vannini, David Bissell, and Ole B. Jensen. The first version was presented at AAG in April 2016, and the current version is now in review for the Journal *Mobilities*. The paper explores the intensities of long distance commuting journeys as a way of exploring how bodily sensibilities are being changed by the mobilities that they undertake. The context of this paper is that many people are travelling further to work than ever before owing to a variety of factors which relate to transport, housing and employment. Yet we argue that the experiential dimensions of long distance mobilities have not received the attention that they deserve within geographical research on mobilities. This paper combines ideas from mobilities research and contemporary social theory with fieldwork conducted in Canada, Denmark and Australia to develop our understanding of the experiential politics of long distance workers. Rather than focusing on the extensive dimensions of mobilities that are implicated in patterns and trends, our paper turns to the intensive dimensions of this experience. By exploring how experiences of long-distance workers become constituted by a range of different material forces enables us to more sensitively consider the practical, technical, and political implications of this increasingly prevalent yet underexplored regime of work.

**Place and time:** September 29, Rendsburggade 14, room 5.346, 12:00-13:00

### October 12: International travellers in Aalborg Airport

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor, Gunvor Riber Larsen, AD:MT, [grla@create.aau.dk](mailto:grla@create.aau.dk)

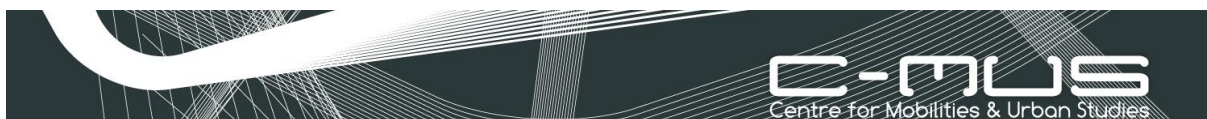
**Abstract:** More and more international travelers arrive in Aalborg Airport, but up until now little has been known about who these travelers are, why they travel to Northern Jutland, and what they do while they are here. C-MUS has conducted research into these questions, and this talk will present the results of this investigation, for the first time giving insights into who the international air guests to Northern Jutland are. Thus this talk is a follow up on the C-MUS BB talk from December 2014, which outlined the theoretical and methodological framework for this research.

**Place and time:** October 12, Rendsburggade 14, 4.411, 12:00-13:00

### November 1: Societal 'matters of concern' and facilitation of 'publics' in mobilities design

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor Ditte Bendix Lanng, Dep. Of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [dbla@create.aau.dk](mailto:dbla@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Some urban mobilities design proposals are primarily imaginaries. They may present solutions to set design problems, but their main agency is to experiment with reimagining mobilities and the urban. This is urban mobilities design as 'critical' and 'speculative' design meant to probe our assumptions (Dunne and Raby 2013). This Brown Bag seminar aims to discuss how critical and speculative urban mobilities design can be a method to tease out essential aspects of urban and societal challenges: how it can work as a unique mode to unfold, analyze, manifest and reverberate socio-cultural-political-economic-technical issues. As such the seminar targets how urban mobilities design imaginaries can articulate 'matters of concern' (Latour 2004). It does so through three methodical reflection points in relation to the agency of urban







mobilities design imaginaries: to discuss urban mobilities design as a unique mode of analytical inquiry; to initiate learning on student studio work as productive manifestations of collective urban and mobilities 'matters of concern'; and to point to the potential for imaginaries to facilitate 'publics' (Björgvinsson et al. 2012).

**Place and time:** November 1, Rendsburggade 14, room 5.346, 12:00-13:00

## **December 16: Nudging, Affordances, Choice Architecture and Mobilities Design**

**Speakers:** Assistant Professor Simon Wind, Assistant Professor Ditte Bendix Lanng & Professor Ole B. Jensen, all Dept. of Architecture, Design and Media Technology ([swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk), [dbla@create.aau.dk](mailto:dbla@create.aau.dk), [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk))

**Abstract:** In the research efforts to establish a relationship between mobilities theory and design we have established the notion of 'mobilities design' (Jensen 2014, Jensen & Lanng 2017, Wind, Lanng & Jensen 2016). The research explores the theories and approaches from the design field as well as it zooms in on the materialities of design choices and how these shape specific mobile situations. In earlier work this has led us to discuss the notion of 'affordance' (Jensen, Lanng & Wind 2016) and with this BB presentation we wish to contribute to a tentative discussion of how this may resonate with the notion of 'nudging' or 'choice architecture'. The presentation will be divided into two parts. In part one we connect the notion of nudging to the idea of mobilities design conceptually and theoretically. In part two we discuss this with reference to empirical cases ranging from cases within the established literature to urban design student projects that we have been involved supervising.

**Place and time:** December 16, Rendsburggade 14, room 5.346, 12:00-13:00

## **Spring 2017**

### **February 14: Sidewalk Interruptions**

**Speaker:** Associate Professor Shelley Smith, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology [ssmi@create.aau.dk](mailto:ssmi@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** We take them for granted. Sidewalks. We notice them when we don't have them, when they inhibit movement, when we are forced off them; our flow interrupted and our mindlessness to place, to now, to here – snapped into attention mode through annoyance. But what is the space of the sidewalk that we take for granted? And what hidden potentials are to be found in them for aesthetic experience? This talk takes its point of departure in a recent research trip to Mexico and the ensuing challenges, musings and discovered potentials in acts of - or interruptions in - daily walking.

**Place and time:** Venue TBA, February 14, 12:00-13:00

### **March 1: Mobility products and their underpinning logic**

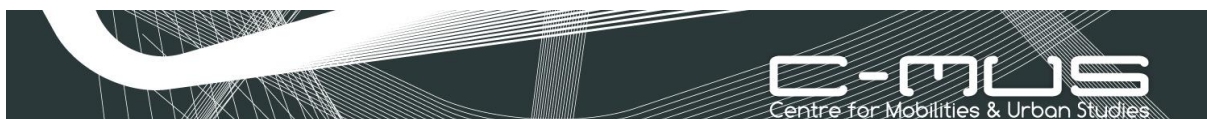
**Speaker:** Associate professor, Louise Møller, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [lmni@create.aau.dk](mailto:lmni@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** This study is in its very early stage and probably premature. Still, I would like to start the discussion of mobility products – What does this term cover? What characterize mobility products compared to other products? And over time: How do we design these? The discussion will start from my present research in design driven innovation, product framing and meaning innovation - I will give examples of mobile products that hinder mobility, products that enhance mobility and flow as well as typically immobile products that improve mobility. I will look forward to hear your perspectives and hope for a critical discussion on this.

**Place and time:** Venue TBA, March 1, 12.00-13.00

### **April 21: Airport Design**

**Speaker:** Professor Ole B. Jensen, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk)







**Abstract:** This seminar takes point of departure in the research project Airport City Futures (AirCiF) which started in C-MUS earlier this year. The discussion at this seminar explore the work package titled 'Becoming a Passenger' and contains a discussion about the methodic mix of observation, interviews, cameras and eye-tracking as used in our empirical study in Copenhagen Airport. The seminar will not be able to present many finished results but will focus more on the methodic design. At the end of the BB seminar issues around physical design of interior airport spaces will be addressed. These questions are subject to exploration in a following research seminar organized immediately after the BB seminar by the C-MUS Mobilities Design Group (MDG). Participants are most welcome to join for both events, as well as attending only the BB is a legitimate option.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 2.449, April 21, 12.00-13.00 and 13.00-16.00,

### May 17: What's in a name? On materiality in mobilities research

**Speaker:** Assistant professor, Martin Trandberg Jensen, Department of Culture and Global Studies, [trandberg@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:trandberg@cgs.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Passports, airplanes, smartphones, tickets and souvenirs. Indeed a gushing wave of things has informed mobilities research in recent years. Led by theorists inspired by relational materialism, actor-network-theory, alien phenomenology and nonrepresentational theories, to mention but a few, these eclectic waves of thinking explore the effects caused by everyday 'objects', 'materialities', 'stuff' or 'non-human actors'. These 'thingy' agents go by many names, and in this presentation I seek to do some conceptual ground-clearing to get to the nub of how we may conceptually deal with the material, and how a more considerate use of concepts may inform future material studies.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.411, May 17, 12:00-13:00

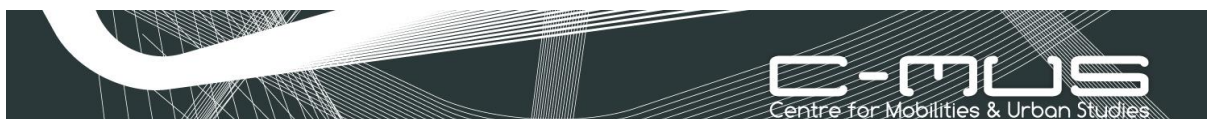
### June 13: From Smart Cities to Smart Placemaking - materialisations of the Smart City in small and human scale

**Speakers:** Assistant Professor Simon Wind & Andrea Hernandez, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [swin@create.aau.dk](mailto:swin@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** As an ambiguous umbrella term, Smart City predominantly annotates the usage of technologies and data in creating solutions to grand challenges that contemporary societies face (i.e. climate change, congestion, pollution, aging populations). Visions and realisations of Smart City revolve around technology, ubiquitous computing and radical interconnectedness and promise to empower city managers through urban operations systems, high-precision control centres, energy grids and sentient sensor environments. However, such top-down and managerial approaches to Smart City are often critiqued for being overly focused on optimisation, security and economic growth, and not on creating living environments foremost for the people that inhabit them (Greenfield 2013, Townsend 2014, Sassen 2012, Foth 2014, Koolhaas 2015). In this Brown Bag we review two empirical cases and explore how ICT, media technologies and data materialise in 'smart placemaking'. In the Utzon Center in Aalborg (DK), the first case illustrates how Minecraft, LEGO and VR are used to create urban utopias and facilitate new spatial experiences, ownership and interaction. The second case, in Copenhagen (DK), addresses *TREE.0*, an installation designed by the Interactive Spaces Lab at the Alexandra Institute, situated in Copenhagen Street Lab, and demonstrates how media technologies and data might improve urban space and city life. From this, we call for an alternative Smart City perspective that lies closer to professions of urban design and architecture. This, we argue, allows us to also emphasize smart technologies and data as tools for placemaking at the smaller and more human scale in the Smart City rhetoric and discussions. These questions are subject to exploration in a following research seminar organized immediately after the BB seminar by the C-MUS Mobilities Design Group (MDG). Participants are most welcome to join for both events, as well as attending only the BB is a legitimate option.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.411, June 8, 12:00-13:00 and 13.00-16.00

### Autumn 2017





## September 26: Re-defined city space

**Speaker:** C-MUS Intern, Joanna Marta Prigara, [jpriga16@student.aau.dk](mailto:jpriga16@student.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** Contemporary cities, influenced by technology and mobility needs of their users, begin to face the challenge of re-adaptation. Future of streets as known shall be questioned and explored to find a different design defining the space between buildings. The concept of re-defined city space academic project provides an insight for why shall planning look into the future, while applying the technological change in mobilities together with the advantages of programmable city.

**Place and time:** September 26, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531, 12:00-13:00

## October 24: Mobilities Design Workshop: Imaginary as Method

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor, Ditte Bendix Lanng, Department of Architecture & Media Technology, [dbla@create.aau.dk](mailto:dbla@create.aau.dk)

**Abstract:** The seminar kicks off with a report and reflection on MDG 2016-17 experiments with 'imaginary (or utopia) as method', incl. research as well as urban mobilities design teaching activities. After this presentation you are invited to take part in a quick experimental design workshop, using the Hundeleiv research-by-design project (a research project by Lea Holst Laursen, Ditte Bendix Lanng and research intern Chrysavgi Konstanti) as a workshop case.

### Short inspirational bibliography:

Dunne, A. and Raby, F. (2015) *Speculative Everything: Design, Fiction, and Social Dreaming*. Cambridge, MA: the MIT Press

Levitas, R. (2013) *Utopia as Method: The Imaginary Reconstitution of Society*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan

van Toorn, R. (2007) No More Dreams? The Passion for Reality in Recent Dutch Architecture...and Its Limitations, in Saunders, W.S. (ed.) *The New Architectural Pragmatism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 54-74

**Place and time:** October 24, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.531, 12:00-14:30. NB: Please observe that this is a joint BB and C-MUS Mobilities Design Group (MDG) event so the duration is expanded from the ordinary BB format.

## November 9, 2017: Packing for security: Investigating aeromobilities in the context of national security panics

**Speaker:** Kaya Barry (and Samid Sulliman), Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University, Australia, [kayathiea@gmail.com](mailto:kayathiea@gmail.com).

**Abstract:** When a plot to smuggle explosives on to an international flight was uncovered recently, authorities wasted no time in ratcheting up security screenings in Australian airports. It stands to reason that identified threats, based on credible sources, should lead to enhanced security measures. However, as with any such measure, there are consequences, such as lengthier than usual transit times, anxiety at receiving additional scrutiny from security agents, and confusion and uncertainty associated with waiting. Increased attention is paid to screening travellers and their luggage, with additional signage and instructions for manoeuvring travellers and the material they bring with them through security screening points. In this context, it is curious that travellers tend not to alter their packing practices in preparation for ease and speed of security clearance, where travelling with more material belongings creates inconvenience for the individual and requires closer scrutiny. While this would suggest that people are generally willing to endure enhanced security screening to ensure safe travel, we suggest something else is at play. In this paper, we interrogate the role of 'national security practices' on broader cultures of mobility, particularly the materiality of aeromobilities. We suggest these cultures of mobility are underpinned by a norm of 'travelling heavy', that is, with checked luggage and carry-on items, which have significant implications for the environmental impact and sustainability of the commercial airline sector. We argue that extraordinary national security measures in the context of acute threat and panic have contradictory effects, inasmuch as its focus on efficiency in scrutinising and shifting cargo and passenger load does little to confront the logistical, economic and environmental costs of travelling heavy. Instead, we consider the ways in which alternative cultures of



mobility, based upon 'packing light' and moving nimbly, might help to bring about both secure and sustainable aeromobilities for all who take to the skies.

**Place and time:** November 9, Rendsburggade 14, room: 4.411, 12:00-13:00

### **November 29: Aeromobilities: Understanding drivers behind Europeans hubs**

**Speaker:** Industrial ph.d. student, Jens Bloch, Institut for Arkitektur og Medieteknologi

**Abstract:** Presentation of preliminary results and findings of the industrial PhD project: The future of Copenhagen as hub airport - knowledge transfer from other European hub airports. The presentation will include case studies of four European airports: Amsterdam, Helsinki, Zurich and Brussels. Basing the analytical approach within aeromobilities, there is a focus on identifying drives for how aviation has developed. Furthermore; an across analytical approach is applied to identify similarities and differences. Finally, relating the results to the Danish situation and context.

**Place and time:** November 29, Rendsburggade 14, Room: 4.531, 12:00-13:00

## **Spring 2018**

### **February 12: Mobile Eye Tracking in Out-of-Lab Settings**

**Speaker:** Aleksandra Kaszowska, PhD candidate in Cognitive Science, Tufts University:

[aleksandra.kaszowska@tufts.edu](mailto:aleksandra.kaszowska@tufts.edu)

**Abstract:** Mobile eye tracking glasses are light and relatively unobtrusive, extending the scope of possible research to more ecologically valid designs outside of research laboratories. I use mobile eye tracking to study navigation and how well people know their environment. In a pilot study, participants planned and executed a walking route from point A to point B, and answered questions on landmark location. I will present some recordings from the study, and I am looking forward to a discussion about different measures of environment knowledge that can be extracted from eye tracking and video data, suggestions for changes to the study protocol to increase its validity, and sharing practical tips on mobile eye tracking recordings in outdoor environments.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room 4.325, February 12, 12:00-13:00

**NB:** This BB is organised as a **joint seminar** between C-MUS and the Research Cluster for Mobility and Tracking Technology (**MoTT**)

### **March 14: Preliminary Results from the AirCiF pilot study in CPH Airport**

**Speaker:** PhD Student, Andrea Victoria Hernandez Bueno, Dept. of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, [avhb@create.aau.dk](mailto:avhb@create.aau.dk)

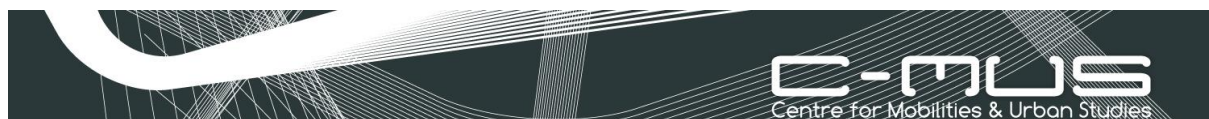
**Abstract:** This Brown Bag present the preliminary results from a pilot study conducted at Copenhagen Airport in December 2017 under the auspices of the research project 'Airport City Futures' (AirCiF). The pilot study in question was a first attempt to coordinate a complex, multi-methods mapping of passengers and their spatial perception through Copenhagen Airport. The pilot study is part of the work package 'Becoming a Passenger' under AirCiF. This WP put focus on passenger experiences and 'how one becomes a passenger' within the complex socio-technical system of the contemporary airport. The WP works with a multi-method set-up drawing upon architectural mappings, thermal camera tracking, eye-tracking, qualitative interviews, and ethnographic observations. The pilot study was a first attempt to orchestrate and coordinate this multi-methods approach as a collaboration exercise with the airport. The presentation will discuss preliminary results as well as it will discuss the challenges of in-situ multi-methods research and recommendations for pairing data collection and analyses strategies

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room (TBA), March 14, 12:00-13:00

### **April 6: Metro in Many Ways**

**Speaker:** PhD student Cecilie B. Christensen, Dept. of Architecture, Design & Media Technology,

[cbch@create.aau.dk](mailto:cbch@create.aau.dk)







**Abstract:** This presentation is based on a pilot study done in November 2017 in the metro of Copenhagen, focusing on Nørreport station – the busiest of all metro stations. The aim was first and foremost to test a methodological setup where the use of new technologies (thermal cameras and eye-tracking glasses) was combined with more traditional methods to study situations and interactions in urban spaces (observations and interviews). This talk will present results and insights from the study, primarily in relation to capacity issues in the metro – but also invite reflections on the methodology and further empirical studies in the metro.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room (TBA), April 6, 12.00-13.00

### May 24: Driverless busses to mobilize a suburb

**Speaker:** Assistant Professor Ditte Bendix Lanng [dbla@create.aau.dk](mailto:dbla@create.aau.dk) and Research assistant Søren Risdal Borg, [srbo@create.aau.dk](mailto:srbo@create.aau.dk), Dept. of Architecture, Design & Media Technology

**Abstract:** In 2018, a driverless bus will be implemented in the suburb of Aalborg East. The bus will run a 2.1 km long test path on Astrupstien, a path for bicyclists and pedestrians. The new technology is implemented in order to help mobilize citizens and users, both internally in the district and between the district and the rest of Aalborg, and it is one substantial outcome of an ongoing extensive trans-formation process of the functionalist suburb. We will conduct an evaluation of the implementation. The evaluation focuses on how the new infrastructure will become part of the existing urban area and everyday lives in the suburb. The evaluation includes primarily qualitative evaluations of the assemblage of people, city and technology, as well as aspects safety and ownership. In the BB-seminar, we will present the evaluation project, the activities done so far, and invite a discussion about its research design, methods, findings and possible output.

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room (TBA), May 24, 12:00-13:00

### June 12: A Decade (almost) of Brown Bag Seminars

**Speakers:** Professor and BB Seminar Series Coordinator, Ole B. Jensen, [obje@create.aau.dk](mailto:obje@create.aau.dk), Dept. of Architecture, Design & Media Technology

**Abstract:** This presentation is a celebration of sorts. The Center for Mobilities and Urban Studies (C-MUS) was established at Aalborg University in 2008. The 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary conference to be held in August 2018 is a testament to this. It is not too much to say that during this decade C-MUS has grown to become an internationally well-recognized research center under the heading of the 'new Mobilities turn'. However, a research center also need a daily life of mundane (but important) practices. This presentation takes you through the BB programs since the very first in the spring of 2009. Along the road, the presenter has not only insisted on keeping the BB series alive as an important institution in C-MUS but also meticulously kept a historic record of all the seminars. This presentation argues that by 'looking back' to the rich and diverse series of BB presentations we get a sense of the academic debates and 'matters of concern' for the researchers in C-MUS. Moreover, this may also serve as an important pointer for the future. So next to presenting old stories' the presentation is an informal invitation to reflect upon the next decade of Brown Bag Seminars!

**Place and time:** Rendsburggade 14, room (TBA), June 12, 12:00-13:00